

August 11, 2003

South Carolina Sustainable Coastal Communities Initiative Program

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) is pleased to announce the fourth year of its Sustainable Coastal Communities Initiative, a competitive grant program for local communities. The goal of this program is to help coastal counties and municipalities plan for the protection of their existing natural resources, correct unsustainable practices, and restore their impaired resources. Projects must address at least to some degree a reduction or prevention of nonpoint source pollution. Small communities have been well represented in the program in the past; six of the ten communities that received grants in the program's first three years had populations below 5,000 people, and two of the remaining four had populations below 15,000.

A committee made up of OCRM staff members and individuals from other state agencies will evaluate proposals from participating communities and choose the most suitable projects. OCRM will award \$60,000 in grants in October 2003. Although a community can apply and qualify for support for more than one project, the most federal funds any one community can receive under this program is \$25,000. OCRM may also offer less money than the requested amount, in which case the project would have to be scaled back by the applicant to be feasible.

OCRM would prefer that you provide a specific and itemized budget in your application to justify the amount of money you are applying for. Doing so will improve your community's chance to receive a Sustainable Coastal Communities grant. A match of at least 35% of the total project cost is required from an applicant to receive funding. In-kind services can qualify for matching funds.

It must be understood that the match is 35% of the *total project cost*, *not 35% of what OCRM is providing*. In other words, do not multiply the amount you are asking OCRM for by 0.35, because that will not provide the correct amount of match required from your community. There is a different formula: Multiply the amount of money you want from OCRM by 0.539 and the result is the amount your community owes (A more in-depth explanation of the math can be provided if you want it). Add the two numbers to get the minimum total cost of the project.

Examples:

1. If the *total cost* of your project is \$1000, then multiply \$1000 by 0.35 to determine your community's required match: \$350. Therefore, you need \$650 from OCRM.
2. If you *want* \$1,000 from OCRM, then your community must supply a match of \$539 (1000 times 0.539), meaning the total cost of the project must be at least \$1,539. If you apply for the maximum \$25,000, then your contribution must be at least \$13,461 (\$25,000 x 0.539) and total project cost must be at least \$38,461.

The following types of projects will be eligible for consideration in the program:

1. Creation of or updates to stormwater management ordinances.

2. Creation of plans for local public projects that will use progressive stormwater measures, including urban waterfront parks and waterfront protection and revitalization projects
3. Plans for wetland or stream restoration projects
4. Update to the natural resource section of your local comprehensive plan or to another ordinance that will have a positive effect on the quality of stormwater.

Projects will be chosen by the committee based on using the following criteria:

1. The benefits of success: what effect the project would have on the resource that it is intended to help,
2. If the project can serve as an example for other communities to follow with their own projects, and
3. Cost of the project.

You must supply a completed application with a complete description of your project by (September 22, 2003). The application format has been supplied below. I look forward to receiving an application from your community. Please contact me at (843) 747-4323, ext. 141 or at reynolww@dhec.sc.gov if you have any questions or need any assistance with the application form or application process.

Sincerely,

Ward Reynolds
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Format for application to participate in the South Carolina Sustainable Coastal Communities Initiative

Name of applicant

Municipality, county, or community group that you represent

Job title or position in community group

Amount of grant money needed \$

From the list below, identify the type of project that your community would like to undertake:

1. Creation of or update to stormwater management ordinance.
2. Creation of plan for a local public project that will use progressive stormwater measures, including urban waterfront parks and waterfront protection and revitalization projects
3. Creation of a plan for a wetland or stream restoration project
4. Update to other ordinance that will have a positive effect on the quality of stormwater.
5. Update to the natural resource section of the local comprehensive plans, which will have a positive impact on stormwater.

Describe in a few paragraphs the following:

1. Your idea for a Sustainable Coastal Communities project.
2. The current conditions related to the issue to be addressed: Why is a new ordinance or plan needed or what is the problem or issue that would justify the grant?
3. Attitudes of residents on the issue, and how you will raise the public consciousness on the issue.